



EcoWise

Your Environmental
Resource



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DSIRE

Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency

Do You DSIRE new Energy Strategies?

Desire, according to Webster, means to wish for something that brings satisfaction or enjoyment. For energy conservation industry participants, this satisfaction may be gained by saving money while, at the same time, helping to protect the environment. Fitting, then, that a website database solely devoted to providing information about renewable energy and energy efficiency incentives goes by the name, DSIRE.

DSIRE - The Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency - began in 1995 as a joint venture of the North Carolina Solar Center and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC). The website - www.DSIREUSA.org - is an invaluable resource for public housing managers who seek information on energy-related financial incentives at the state and national levels.

The site's homepage includes two maps of the United States, one large and one small. Click anywhere on the large map to find a thorough compilation of state-specific information. The programs of each state are organized under three headings: **Financial Incentives; Rules, Regulations and Policies; and Related Programs and Initiatives**. Click on the smaller map, labeled "FED", for information on national incentives, regulations and policies. If you are planning an energy efficient program for your development, you may want information on both federal and state energy incentives and regulations that could affect your project.

Energy Webcasts Coming Soon

On Thursday, April 12th, HUD's Energy Task Force will host the first of four webcasts to promote energy efficiency in public and assisted housing along with other tools and techniques that support HUD's Energy Strategy. HUD will offer official Certificates of Completion to all personnel who watch the entire 4-part series in 2007. Follow the "Webcast" link to the right to register for the event.

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Energy Watch

Official energy statistics from the Energy Information Administration

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/>

Events

[NAHB Greenbuilding Conference](#)

March 25-27 - St. Louis, MO

[Energy Webcast](#)

April 12th, 1:00-4:00pm

[Utility Energy Services Contracting Workshop](#)

May 3 - Cape Canaveral, FL

[Energy Performance Contracting for Public Housing Authorities](#)

June 4-8 - Chicago, IL

Energy Audits and Consultants - Choose But Choose Wisely

Buildings consume a staggering one-third of the energy used in the United States. Therefore, improving the energy efficiency of housing agencies can have a big impact on both cost savings and how much energy America consumes. It stands to reason that energy audits and the consultants who perform them play a vital role in the sustainability of housing developments and the overall health of America's energy economy.

Energy audits highlight the need for improvements in efficiency and can generate cost savings. Two helpful resources on increasing energy efficiency are New Jersey's, *How to Conduct an Energy Audit - A Short Guide for Local Governments and Communities* and *Energy Conservation for Housing* - a guide to assist HAs in making energy conservation improvements. The guides point out that some building audits require the use of energy consultants. We know consultants are costly, so let the tips below guide you toward a more informed decision.

Understand Your Needs: If your development has specialized energy needs, make sure you take the time to find a consultant who has worked on projects like yours.

Know the Consultant's Experience: Obtain descriptions of the consultant's past work. And, if possible, speak with the consultant's former clients to gauge their level of satisfaction.

Consider A Long Term Relationship: Try to choose someone with a proven record of post-audit availability to respond to complications that may arise.

Ensure Unbiased Advice: Before selecting a consultant, make sure that you're aware of any financial relationships he or she may have with equipment companies or vendors that you use or that they recommend.

**A Tip for
Maintenance Staff**

To unsubscribe from this mailing list email pheccinfo@nelrod.com with "unsubscribe phecc" in the body of the message.

Comments? Questions? Email the newsletter editor at pheccinfo@nelrod.com or call 1-800-955-2232

This monthly e-mail update is brought to you by HUD's Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse (PHECC) featuring news and resources to help agencies manage energy and water costs.

Regional Spotlight on HAs Using Resources Identified by DSIRE

[Rising Star, TX](#) - Leverages local funding and uses Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) to install new AC units.

[Buffalo, NY](#) - Uses HUD energy incentives with the help of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to fund an energy performance contract.

[Boston, MA](#) - Installs solar power housing in Maverick Gardens with help from the Renewable Energy Trust.

Resources

[DSIREUSA](#)

Database on energy incentives by state

[Energy Audits](#)

New Jersey's guide to energy audits

[Energy Conservation for Housing](#)

A workbook for HAs published by HUD

[Carbon Monoxide \(CO\)](#)

EPA primer on CO and CO detectors

Maintenance Corner

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

What is CO, and how can I ensure that my residents aren't at risk of CO poisoning?

CO is a product of the incomplete combustion of compounds that contain carbon. It comes from gas stoves, space heaters, hot water heaters and dryers. CO is present all around us yet it is also highly toxic in large amounts. Colorless and odorless, it can cause permanent neurological dysfunction and even death. For this reason, it is imperative that everyone be aware of how to prevent CO poisoning, especially among those most susceptible to it, such as infants and the elderly.

- Before and during each heating season, thoroughly check all fuel-burning appliances such as oil and gas furnaces, gaswater heaters, gas ranges and ovens, gas dryers, gas or kerosene space heaters, fire places and wood stoves.
- Housing Agencies may want to consider installing carbon monoxide detectors. Some municipalities and states require them. Reasonably priced detectors can be found at many stores. Find out more about the importance of carbon monoxide detectors by following the "Carbon Monoxide" link above.

Email us with your Maintenance Corner questions!
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